

the thicker the pot the better. Put a lid on, and do not ever stir them. Cook them till they are flaky and tender. A lot of people stir them and stir them, and they will be like mush when they come out. Well, but I do not like that. I mean, I will eat them, but I do not like them that way. People do that at cookouts and everything. The best way that I like swamp cabbage is with oysters.

P: Oh, I have never heard of that.

W: Prepare your swamp cabbage the same way, except put in a little bit of bacon grease. Salt and pepper to your taste, put the lid on, and cook them till they are flaky and done. Then put the oysters in--raw oysters. If you want to make a gallon of swamp cabbage, put in about two quarts of raw oysters right out of the shell, not washed or anything. Dump them in there and then stir them one time, put the lid back on them, bring them to a boil, and turn your fire out. Then everything in that pot will taste like oysters. The oyster taste will go through all your swamp cabbage. Swamp cabbage has a soft texture, anyway, and the flavor will go right through.

P: Did you eat it that way when you were young?

W: Yes.

P: So you went collecting oysters often?

W: Yes. Anytime there was a month with an R in it, like September or October, we went to the coast and caught fish and gathered oysters.

P: But when you were little, you would pretty much have to eat oysters right there because they would go bad, right?

W: Yes, unless you cooked them and then brought them back cooked or something like that. You could do that.

P: Did salt them to keep them while you were there?

W: No, we would never salt them, but we would cook them--fry them or something. You could do that in nothing flat. Then you could get some block ice to put on them to bring them back. If you wanted to keep them two or three days, you could get block ice. As long as you could afford the ice, you could afford the oysters.

P: Yes. The other day you were saying something was the sign of good luck in fishing. My dad used to say a dragon fly's landing on the pole was a good sign.

W: Well, I have heard quite a few things. But all I remember along that line is if you started fishing and got your fishing pole out and somebody stepped across it or walked